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will be welcomed on its merits both by botanists and by the general public. It consists of an introduction of an elementary character discussing the general problems of tree growth and illustrating some of the technical terms employed, a key for the determination of species on the basis of leaf and bud characters, supplemented by additional keys for the chief genera, and illustrated descriptions of over 100 species found in New England. This list includes not only all that are native to the region, but in addition the species that are commonly grown for ornamental purposes, thus extending the usefulness of the volume to the study of the trees of city parks and of areas far beyond the limits designated in the title of the volume.

One page is devoted to the description of each tree, while facing the description is a plate illustrating the species in winter condition. These plates contain reproductions of photographs of the general habit, the trunk, showing bark characters, the twig with buds and leaf scars, and the fruit. They are so uniformly excellent in quality that they must be regarded as the best collection of illustrations of the sort that have yet appeared. By their aid almost all common trees may be recognized readily by the ordinary reader. The descriptive text is wonderfully complete when its brevity is considered. Synonyms of both popular and scientific names are given, followed by separate paragraphs on the habit, bark, twigs, leaf scars, buds, fruit, wood, distribution, and comparisons with other species. Such an arrangement of material makes the manual well adapted for ready reference. As a manual it should be a valuable addition to those already available for college classes, but it is likely to prove even more valuable to teachers in public and high schools who are attempting to lead pupils to become familiar with our native trees. In addition to its present form, its authors indicate their intention of publishing it as a book, thus making it more widely available.—GEO. D. FULLER.

British liverworts.—In the prefatory note to a little volume on liverworts[9] the authors say that the book is intended to be a companion volume to their essay on *British mosses*. It is sincerely hoped that it will always remain on the shelf with that volume, and not fall into the hands of isolated students who are trying to get accurate information about liverworts. A few quotations will show what the authors know about the group as well as botany in general. "The liverworts present to one's mind the idea of a crowd of organisms which have not made up their minds in which line they shall go, and are trying experiments in all directions to see what is best for them to take." The following statement will be interesting to morphologists and physiologists: "A marked peculiarity of the thallus [of *Anthoceros*] is found in the manner in which the coloring matter is disposed. In some cells the chlorophyll may be seen gathered round the cell walls, either forming a continuous line or as separate bodies, but other cells, instead of possessing many diffused grains of chlorophyll, have a so-called chloroplast, a large flattened plate of coloring matter which incloses the nucleus." Of *Marchantia* we read: "Below and between each pair of rays the disk bears a perichaetium, i.e., the wrapper or involucre of a sporogone or female cell, which when fertilized by an antherozoid produces a mass of cells accompanied by elaters. The archegone itself thus becomes the spore case. These female organs are variously known as disks, receptacles, or inflorescences." Again, "On the upper surface of the thallus of *Pellia* may be seen, in both spring and autumn, small dots on either side of the midrib. These are very minute globular bodies attached by a slight thread to the subadjacent tissue. These bodies are known as antheridia or antherids, and may be compared with the stamens of flowering plants. From each antherid comes at maturity a mass of small spiral bodies, known as antherozoids (or spermatozoids), which may be compared with and play the part of the pollen of a flowering plant." Using *Pellia epiphylla* as an example, we find that "if we start with a spore, we shall find that it produces a thallus on which grow the archegones and the antherids, which by their union produce a fertilized ovum." There are many more such statements in the little book.—W. J. G. LAND.

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[9] FRY, EDWARD and AGNES, The liverworts, British and foreign. pp. viii+74. *figs. 49*. London: Witherby & Co. 1911.

NOTES FOR STUDENTS

Current taxonomic literature.—S. ALEXANDER (Rep. Mich. Acad. Sci. **13**:191–198. 1911) records the results of a continued study of the perennial species of *Helianthus*. The author finds distinguishing characters in the underground parts of sunflowers and incorporates these characters in a tabular synopsis of the Michigan species.—G. BEAUVERD (Bull. Soc. Bot. Genève II. **3**:253–260. 1911) under the title "Contribution a l'étude des Composées" has proposed a new genus (*Parantennaria*) founded on an Austrian species, *Antennaria uniceps* F. v. Müller.—O. BECCARI (Philip. Journ. Sci. Bot. **6**:229, 230. 1911) gives a list of plants of the island of Polillo, describing a new species of *Livistona* (*L. Robinsoniana*) and two new varieties in the genus *Areca*.—E. P. BICKNELL (Bull. Torr. Bot. Club **38**:447–460. 1911) in an eighth article on "The ferns and flowering plants of Nantucket" records further noteworthy plants and characterizes a new species of *Amelanchier*.—G. BITTER (Bot. Jahrb. **45**:564–656. *pls. 4–10.* 1911) has published a revision of the South American genus *Polylepis*, recognizing 33 species, 14 of which are new to science; the group has its greatest specific diversity in the north Andean region.—N. E. BROWN (Bot. Mag. *t. 8402.* 1911) describes and illustrates a new species of *Cladium* (*C. pubescens*) from Peru.—E. B. COPELAND (Leafl. Phil. Bot. **4**:1149–1152. 1911) describes 6 new species of ferns from the Philippine Islands.—S. T. DUNN (Kew Bull. 1911:362–364) has published a new genus (*Ostryoderris*) of the Leguminosae from tropical west Africa. The same author (Philip. Journ. Sci. Bot. **6**:315–317. 1911) gives a synopsis of the Philippine representatives of the genus *Milletia*, recognizing 11 species of which 3 are new to